

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /065 W
-----232030Z 010940 /65

O R 231940Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2023

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - MEDIA COVERAGE

SUMMARY: COVERAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUES LIGHT.
EDITORIAL POLICY GUIDANCE, MOST NOTABLY ON NEUTRALITY
ISSUE, HAS NOT SHIFTED SINCE INCEPTION OF CURRENT ROUND.
"SENSATIONAL DECLARATIONS" BY TORRIJOS ARE PROMISED FOR
JUNE 3 COUNCIL OF STATE MEETING IN DAVID. END SUMMARY.

1. COVERAGE OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS REMAINED LIGHT OVER
WEEKEND; PRESS CARRIED WIRE SERVICE STORIES. A FRIDAY
EVENING TV INTERVIEW QUOTED TORRIJOS AS SAYING THAT
NEGOTIATIONS HAD ENTERED A "ZONE OF SILENCE" IN WHICH DIRECT
COMMENT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE.

2. EDITORIALIZING ABOUT THE ROUND HAS ALSO CONTINUED LIGHT.
"ESTRELLA" FOR MAY 23 NOTES THAT RECENT EVENTS HAVE
CREATED A "CLIMATE OF TENSION" IN BOTH PANAMA AND THE CANAL
ZONE AND CALLS ON READERS TO AVOID INCIDENTS WHICH WOULD
SERVE ONLY THE "SINISTER PURPOSES OF PROVOCATEURS ON BOTH
SIDES WHILE DAMAGING THE PANAMANIAN CAUSE.

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3. WHAT LITTLE COMMENTARY THERE HAS BEEN HAS REFERRED
OFTEN TO NEUTRALITY, ALBEIT USUALLY IN GENERAL TERMS.
IN A FRIDAY TV ITEM FROM WASHINGTON, CHANNEL 4 NEWS
DIRECTOR ELETA SAID "ANY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF
NEUTRALITY WILL BE MADE SOLELY BY PANAMA, WHICH ALL NATIONS
WILL HAVE THE DUTY TO RESPECT AND THAT ONCE THE NEW TREATY

EXPIRES, NO FOREIGN TROOPS OR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
WILL EXIST IN PANAMA" (FBIS/PANAMA PA 210245Y).

4. BUT "CRITICA", EDITORIALIZING MAY 23, ON THE "NEW
RECESS" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, RETURNED TO THE LINE OF RECENT
MONTHS THAT ANY EFFECTIVE NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE MUST BE BY
MEANS OF UNITED NATIONS. IT CONCLUDED WITH A DOUR REPETITION
THAT "OTHER METHODS OF DECOLONIZATION" WERE AVAILABLE IF
PANAMA ENCOUNTERS "PASSIVITY OR SUBTERFUGE" AT THE
NEGOTIATION TABLE.

5. IN AN ITEM BURIED IN "DOMINICAL" FOR MAY 22, A REPORT
FROM DAVID STATES THAT TORRIJOS "WILL MAKE SENSATIONAL
DECLARATIONS ABOUT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND OTHER
SUBJECTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST DURING THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL
COUNCIL OF STATE WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THIS CITY FRIDAY,
JUNE 3". THIS REPORT IS ATTRIBUTED TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
SOURCES, WHICH INDICATED "SPECIAL INTEREST" IN MEETING BY
TORRIJOS AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL GOP OFFICIALS. (VICE-
PRESIDENT GONZALEZ RECENTLY HEADED AN OFFICIAL TEAM WHICH
VISITED CHIRIQUI FOR PREPARATORY MEETINGS.) ITEM NOTES THAT
GOP HAS IN THE PAST USED CHIRIQUI FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF
NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

6. RELATED TORRIJOS COMMENTS REGARDING HIS INTERVIEWS WITH
"WASHINGTON POST" CORRESPONDENT AND MEXICAN GROUP SEPTEL.

7. COMMENT: "CRITICA" EDITORIAL LINE IS PARTICULARLY
INTERESTING, AS IT CONTAINS NO HINT OR SUGGESTION OF ANY
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SHIFT IN PANAMA'S POSITION ON NEUTRALITY ISSUE. WHETHER THIS IS
A DELIBERATE DECISION TO MAINTAIN THE FORMER POLICY GUIDANCE IN
FORCE, OR SIMPLE INERTIA AND/OR CAUTION IN FAILING
TO START SHIFTING IT, WE CANNOT SAY. BUT GOP IS VERY
EVIDENTLY NOT YET PREPARING ITS PUBLIC FOR ANYTHING VERY DIFFERENT
THAT MIGHT EMERGE FROM THIS NEGOTIATING ROUND. END COMMENT.
GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: THE PRESS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, NEGOTIATIONS, NEUTRALISM, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2406818
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - MEDIA COVERAGE SUMMARY: COVERAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUES LIGHT. EDITORIAL POLICY GUIDANCE, MOST NOTABLY ON NEUTRAL
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58b5bf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009